

What is claimed is:

1. A selling price information mediation service method for mediating and supplying, over a network, selling price information including selling prices of a commodity in respective stores and information about the stores, providing at least one information requester terminal that requests selling price information, a plurality of information provider terminals that provide selling price information, and a management server that is an information processing apparatus and mediates selling price information, said information requester terminal, said information provider terminals, and said management server being connected to a network, wherein said management server comprises the steps of:

receiving, from said information requester terminal, an information request that requests selling price information about a commodity, and communicating the information request to the information providers;

collecting pieces of selling price information that are received from part of said information provider terminals and match the information request, and generating collected selling price information that matches the information request;

supplying the collected selling price information to said information requester terminal, and charging said information requester terminal a prescribed information supply fee and mediation commission; and

performing processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to the part of said information provider terminals that provided the pieces of selling price information that match the information request.

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registering an information requester at said information requester terminal and information providers at said information provider terminals as members after causing them to clarify their identities; and

3. A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, wherein said management server further comprises the step of keeping a history of an information provider who caused a problem and disclosing the history to said information requester terminal.

5. A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, wherein the request information includes information indicating a restrictive area where an information requester at said information requester terminal can buy the commodity, and said management server further comprises the step of supplying said information requester terminal with only pieces of selling price information of stores located in the restrictive area.

6. A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, wherein said management server further comprises the step of supplying said information requester terminal with part of the collected

selling price information that excludes information about stores before supplying the collected selling price information to said information requester terminal.

7. A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, wherein said management server further comprises the step of performing processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to only part of said information provider terminals that provided pieces of selling price information with some ones of a lowest selling price and prices close to it after selling the collected selling price information to said information requester terminal.

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